

Sentence Combining: Clauses

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

sentence combining: making two or more sentences into one

independent clause: part of a sentence that is a complete thought

subordinate clause: part of a sentence that has a noun and/or a verb but does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone

subordinating conjunction: a word that introduces a subordinate clause

relative pronoun: pronoun relating to a preceding noun or pronoun

HERE'S HOW

Step 1: Combine sentences by using subordinating conjunctions, such as *when*, *because*, and *although*, to show the relationship between two ideas. The chart shows some common subordinating conjunctions.

Time Order	Cause-and-Effect Order	Condition or Contrast
<i>when, after, before, while,</i>	<i>because, as, since</i>	<i>although, though, unless, if</i>

EXAMPLES

Draft: The farmers lost their crop. The frost had come early.

Revision: The farmers lost their crop because the frost had come early.

Step 2: Combine sentences using the relative pronoun *who* to replace *he*, *she*, *they*, or any word that names a person. Do *not* use commas if a detail is essential to the meaning of the sentence. *Use* commas if the detail is not essential to the meaning.

EXAMPLES

Draft: Employees work hard. They are often promoted.

Revision: Employees **who** work hard are often promoted.

Step 3: Combine sentences using the relative pronouns *which* and *that* to replace a place, or thing. When an added detail is *essential* to the meaning of the sentence, use *that* but no commas. When an added detail is *not* essential, use *which* and set off the added detail with commas.

EXAMPLES

Draft: I enjoy situation comedies. The comedies make me laugh.

Revision: I enjoy situation comedies that make me laugh.

Draft: Newport is in Rhode Island. It is famous for old mansions.

Revision: Newport, which is in Rhode Island, is famous for old mansions.